

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of updating a common data source of data items and associations among said data items, wherein said common data source being accessible by more than one client storing copies of at least two of said data items and at least one association between at least two data items, and wherein at least one of said data items is a thought capable of being interactively modified, created, or interconnected by at least one of said clients, comprising:

receiving a request from a client to modify a data item, wherein said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one client operates on said data item; and

updating said data source according to said request; and

barring other of said more than one clients from modifying said data item between the time the request is received from said client and confirmation is sent to said client.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending a confirmation of said updating to said client.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

modifying said copy of said data item.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, in which said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients operates on said data item.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, in which said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients modifies said data item.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, in which said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients deletes said data item.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, in which said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients activates a new thought.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, in which said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients creates a new thought.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1, in which said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients creates a new interconnection between at least two of said thoughts.

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently amended): ~~The method of claim 12 further comprising:~~ A method for a common data source that is accessible by more than one client to update at least one of said clients that stores a local version of said common data source, said common data source having data items and associations between data items, comprising:

detecting data items missing from said local version;

sending said missing data items to said local version;

updating said missing data items and associations with said missing data items in said local version; and

detecting whether more than one of said clients each attempted to send to the common data source the same data item under different identifiers.

Claim 14 (Current amended): ~~The method of claim 12 further comprising:~~ A method for a common data source that is accessible by more than one client to update at least one of said clients that stores a local version of said common data source, said common data source having data items and associations between data items, comprising:

detecting data items missing from said local version;

sending said missing data items to said local version;

updating said missing data items and associations with said missing data items in said local version; and

detecting whether more than one of said clients each attempted to send to the common data source different data items under the same identifier.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 16~~ An apparatus for a client to modify the display of indicia of at least a first data item and a second data item and at least one association between those two data items, comprising:

a first repository storing said first data item;
a second repository storing said second data item;
an intermediary receiving a request from said client and providing interface to said first
repository and said second repository, wherein said intermediary causes said display to modify; and
a third repository storing said association between said first data item and said second data
item.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~17~~ 16, wherein said intermediary addresses said request to said first and second repositories with respect to said first and said second data items, respectively.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
information that is sent to said intermediary from said first repository or said second repository relevant to whether the requested modification requires the display of graphic representations of additional data items associated with said first data item or said second data item, respectively.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
information that is requested from said third repository relevant to whether the requested modification requires the display of any associations between any data items from the first repository with any data items from the second repository.

Claim 21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:~~ An apparatus for a client to modify the display of indicia of at least a first data item and a second data item and at least one association between those two data items, comprising:

a first server storing said first data item and a record of said at least one association;

a second server storing said second data item and a record of said at least one association;

and

a request to said first server and said second server for information relevant to modifying said display.

Claim 23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Canceled)